

## Our Students

The DARC program attracts a multicultural student population. In addition to ethnic and racial diversity, students from a variety of educational and experiential backgrounds enroll. The majority of DARC students are adults; some have not been in school in many years while others have recently earned advanced degrees. Many DARC students are making mid-life career shifts where others are seeking additional training and credentialing to supplement current work in a variety of human services.

## Our Faculty

Like our students, the DARC faculty are a diverse group. All faculty are Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors with many years of experience in addiction treatment.

## Certification in Connecticut

In order to become a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor in the State of Connecticut, applicants must meet the Connecticut Certification Board (CCB) requirements. Requirements include: 360 hours of classroom training, 240 of which must be substance abuse specific; 300 hours of practical training in the 12 core functions of an alcohol and drug counselor; 6,000 hours of supervised work experience (provisional certification may be applied for after 4000 hours and an advanced degree may be substituted for 2000 hours); submission of a written case study; successfully completion the certification exam, and successfully completion the Case Presentation.

Upon completion of the DARC degree, students are 'certification eligible' making them quite marketable as entry-level counselors.

**Call Lauren Doninger (203.285.2321)  
for advisement.**

**email: [ldoninger@gwcc.commnet.edu](mailto:ldoninger@gwcc.commnet.edu)**

*It is the policy of Gateway Community College that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any program, including employment, on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disability, genetic information, marital status, mental retardation, sexual orientation, learning disability, pregnancy, physical disability, including, but not limited to blindness, or prior criminal record, political beliefs, or veteran status.*

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[www.gwcc.commnet.edu](http://www.gwcc.commnet.edu)

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60 Sargent Drive  
New Haven, CT 06511

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# DARC

## Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor

*Associate in Science Degree  
and  
Certificate Program*



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## About the DARC Program

Thank you for your interest in the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor Program (DARC) at Gateway Community College. The DARC Program provides education and training for those seeking employment, job advancement and/or increased effectiveness in the field of addiction counseling. Many students go on to bachelor and master degree programs.

Students receive instruction in the theories and techniques of counseling with a disciplined background in the biopsychosocial disease process of addiction; environmental and familial risk factors; evidence-based treatment models; public health issues; continuum of care; the Recovery Model; counselor code of ethics and more. Throughout the DARC course work, students are offered a unique combination of traditional classroom and experiential learning/practice. Additionally, students have the opportunity to apply their learning through a one-year internship experience that allows them to further develop their skills and marketability.

Students who complete the DARC degree at Gateway Community College will have met all Connecticut Certification Board training requirements in preparation for State of Connecticut credentialing as an alcohol and drug counselor. In addition to the course work, the State of Connecticut requires students to accrue work hours in the field of drug and alcohol counseling in order to be eligible to sit for the certification exam, administered by the Connecticut Certification Board.

## Curriculum

The program at Gateway consists of 30 semester hours of specialty courses and 30 semester hours of general education courses.

The first year specialty courses, DAR 101, 111, 112, 158, 114 and 213, are open to any student wishing to enroll; however, students are urged to seek advisement from the program coordinator. Acceptance into the Internship portion of the program is selective. Those students who are not accepted into the Internship will not be able to graduate with a degree in Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counseling, though they may certainly work toward an associate degree in General Studies or another discipline.

### Substance Abuse Training Certificate

This Certificate Program provides the student with knowledge and training essential for the certification exam used by the state of Connecticut (administered by the Connecticut Certification Board) for credentialing as an alcohol and drug counselor. This program is ideal for students who are already working in the field of addiction treatment, are receiving clinical supervision by a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, have already earned training hours toward certification eligibility, and would like to be on a fast track for state certification. This program is also beneficial to those who hold bachelors or master degrees and would like to supplement their expertise and marketability and/or become eligible for licensure as an alcohol and drug counselor. Students holding degrees who are interested in a career change should consider the Certificate program plus Internship.

After completing the certificate program, students will have earned all of the substance abuse specific training required to become eligible to sit for the state certification exam. Additionally, the student will have concurrently achieved nearly half the requirements for an associate degree in Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counseling.

## DARC Course Requirements

### General Education Requirements

ENG	101^	Composition	3
COM	101	Fundamentals of Human Communication	3
MAT	123*	Intro. to Statistics	3
PSY	101	Intro. to Psychology	3
BIO	115	Human Biology	3
PSY	245	Abnormal Psychology	3
Elective		Computer Literacy	3
Elective		Humanities	3
Elective		Fine Arts	3
Elective		English	3

*\*Or higher for transfer*

### Program Requirements

DAR	101^	Public Health Issues; Abuse and Addiction	3
DAR	111^	Addiction Counseling I	3
DAR	112^	Group Counseling Theory & Techniques	3
DAR	158^	Biology of Addiction	3
DAR	114^	Introduction to Family Systems	3
DAR	213^	Addiction Counseling II	3
DAR	251	Counseling Internship I*	6
DAR	252	Counseling Internship II*	6

**Total Credit Hours 60**

^ - Indicate courses required to earn the Substance Abuse Training Certificate.

\* Counseling Internship is selective admission only, based on a rigorous admission process.